Amendments to the claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented). A method for refolding an NspA protein comprising contacting the NspA protein with an alkaline refolding buffer comprising 3-dimethyldodecylammoniopropanesulfonate (SB-12).

2. (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 1 wherein the refolding buffer comprises ethanolamine and SB-12.

3. (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 2 wherein the ethanolamine is about 20mM ethanolamine.

4. (Currently Amended). A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 3~~ claim 1 wherein the refolding buffer has pH11.

5. (Currently Amended). A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 wherein the SB-12 is 0.2% SB-12.

6. (Currently Amended). A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 4~~ claim 1 wherein the SB-12 is 0.5% SB-12.

7. (Currently Amended). A method according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1 wherein the SB-12 is purified.

8. (Previously Presented). A method according to claim 7 wherein the SB-12 is purified by passing it over an Al_2O_3 column.

9. (Previously Presented). A method comprising the following steps:

a. optionally expressing an NspA protein in a host cell;

b. optionally breaking the host cell to obtain an inclusion body comprising the NspA protein;

c. optionally washing the inclusion body;

d. optionally solubilisation of at least part of the inclusion body and the NspA protein;

e. contacting the solubilised NspA protein with the refolding buffer; and

f. optionally removing the refolding buffer from the NspA protein.

10. (Currently Amended). An isolated, refolded NspA protein obtained or obtainable by the method of ~~any one of claims 1 to 9~~ claim 1.

11. (Previously Presented). A pharmaceutical composition comprising at least one isolated, refolded NspA protein of claim 10, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

12. (Previously Presented). A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 11 wherein at least 30%, 50%, 70%, or 90% of the NspA protein present in the composition is refolded.

13. (Currently Amended). A pharmaceutical composition according to claim 11 ~~or 12~~ in the form of a vaccine.

14. (Currently Amended). The pharmaceutical composition of ~~any one of claims 11 to 13~~ claim 11 comprising an isolated, refolded NspA protein derived from *Neisseria meningitidis*.

15. (Currently Amended). The pharmaceutical composition of ~~any one of claims 11 to 14~~ claim 11 comprising an isolated, refolded NspA protein derived from *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*.

16. (Currently Amended). The pharmaceutical composition ~~according to any one of claims 11 to 14~~ of claim 11 wherein said composition comprises at least one other Neisserial antigen.

17. (Previously Presented). The pharmaceutical composition of claim 16 comprising at least one other Neisserial antigen derived from *Neisseria gonorrhoeae*.

18. (Currently Amended). The pharmaceutical composition of claim 16 ~~or 17~~ comprising at least one other Neisserial antigen derived from *Neisseria meningitidis*.

19. (Currently Amended). A pharmaceutical composition ~~according to any one of claims 16 to 18~~ claim 16 further comprising at least one other Neisserial antigen selected ~~from one or more of the following classes~~ the group consisting of:

a. at least one Neisserial adhesin selected from the group consisting of FhaB, Hsf,NadA, PilC, Hap, MafA, MafB, Omp26, NMB0315, NMB0995 and NMB1119;

b. at least one Neisserial autotransporter selected from the group consisting of Hsf, Hap, IgA protease, AspA and NadA;

c. at least one Neisserial toxin selected from the group consisting of FrpA, FrpC, FrpA/C, VapD, NM-ADPRT, and either or both of LPS immunotype L2 and LPS immunotype L3;

d. at least one Neisserial Fe acquisition protein selected from the group consisting of TbpA high, TbpA low, TbpB high, TbpB low, LbpA, LbpB, P2086, HpuA, HpuB, Lipo28, Sibp, FbpA, BfrA, BfrB, Bcp, NMB0964 and NMB0293; and

e. at least one Neisserial membrane associated protein, preferably outer membrane protein, selected from the group consisting of PldA, TspA, FhaC, NspA, TbpA(high), TbpA(low), LbpA, HpuB, TdfH, PorB, HimD, HisD, GNA1870, OstA, HlpA, MltA, NMB 1124, NMB 1162, NMB 1220, NMB 1313, NMB 1953, HtrA, TspB, PilQ and OMP85.

20. (Currently Amended). The pharmaceutical composition of ~~any one of claims 11-19~~ claim 11 further comprising one or more bacterial capsular polysaccharides or oligosaccharides.

21. (Previously Presented). The pharmaceutical composition of claim 20 wherein the one or more capsular polysaccharides or oligosaccharides are derived from bacteria selected from the group consisting of *Neisseria meningitidis* serogroup A, C, Y, and/or W-135, *Haemophilus influenzae* b, *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, Group A Streptococci, Group B Streptococci, *Staphylococcus aureus* and *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, and are preferably conjugated to a source of T-helper epitopes.

22. (Currently Amended). Use of an NspA protein of claim 10 ~~(or a pharmaceutical composition of claims 11-21)~~ in the preparation of a medicament for use in generating an immune response in an animal.

23. (Currently Amended). Use of an NspA protein of claim 10 ~~(or a pharmaceutical composition of claims 11-21)~~ in the preparation of a medicament for treatment of prevention of Neisserial infection.

24. (Currently Amended). A method of preventing or treating Neisserial infection by administering an NspA protein of claim 10 ~~(or a pharmaceutical composition of claims 11-21)~~ to a patient in need thereof.

25. (Currently Amended). The ~~use or~~ method of claim 23 ~~or 24~~ in which *Neisseria meningitidis* infection is prevented or treated.

26. (Currently Amended). The ~~use or~~ method of claim~~s~~ 23~~-25~~ in which *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* infection is prevented or treated.

27. (Previously Presented). An antibody immunospecific for the NspA protein as claimed in claim 10.

28. (Previously Presented). A pharmaceutical composition useful in treating humans with a Neisserial disease comprising at least one antibody according to claim 27 and a suitable pharmaceutical carrier.

29. (Previously Presented). Use of the antibody of claim 27 in the manufacture of a medicament for the treatment or prevention of Neisserial disease.

30. (Previously Presented). The use of claim 29 in which *Neisseria meningitidis* infection is prevented or treated.

31. (Currently Amended). The use of claim 29 ~~or 30~~ in which *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* infection is prevented or treated.

32. (Previously Presented). A method of diagnosing a Neisserial infection, comprising the steps of identifying an NspA protein, or an antibody thereto, within a biological sample from an animal suspected of having such an infection using an NspA protein as claimed in claim 10, or an antibody as claimed in claim 27.

33. (Previously Presented). The method of claim 32 in which *Neisseria meningitidis* infection is diagnosed.

34. (Currently Amended). The method of claim 32 ~~or 33~~ in which *Neisseria gonorrhoeae* infection is diagnosed.